

ADMINISTRATIVE - INTERNAL USE ONLY

DDI-03827/84/1

9 July 1984

NOTE TO: Acting DDI

FROM: D/OCR

SUBJECT: OSWR Request to Purchase a Kurzweil
Optical Reader*Dir:*

1. This Office has reviewed OSWR's request for funding to purchase a Kurzweil optical character reader. We understand that OSWR's Naval Systems Division (NSD) proposes to convert highly technical reports, which include mathematical formulae, typeset printing, and Cyrillic character fonts. Kurzweil produces the only scanner able to convert such material.

2. All other commercial optical readers, including the Compuscan unit OCR is testing for use with hard copy documents, are limited to more traditional typed text. I question whether other uses will be found for the Kurzweil unit after the NSD material is converted (a three month project), particularly as the machine is very slow and labor-intensive to operate. Much of the other material OSWR proposes to convert could probably be processed by faster, less expensive scanners.

3. OCR is willing to share our expertise in this field with OSWR, as appropriate.



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